NUMB. CXIX.

The SPECTATOR.

Urbem quam dicunt Romam, Melibæe, putavi
Stultus ego huic noſtræ ſimilem———Virg.

Tueſday, July 17. 1711.

THE firſt and moſt obvious Reflections which ariſe in a Man who changes the City for the Country, are upon the different Manners of the People whom he converſes with in thoſe two different Scenes of Life. By Manners I do not mean Morals, but Behaviour and Good Breeding, as they ſhow themſelves in the Town and in the Country.

And here, in the firſt place, I muſt obſerve a very great Revolution that has happened in this Article of Good Breeding. Several obliging Deferences, Condeſcenſions and Submiſſions, with many outward Forms and Ceremonies that accompany them, were firſt of all brought up among the politer Part of Mankind who lived in Courts and Cities, and diſtinguiſhed themſelves from the Ruſtick Part of the Species (who on all Occaſions acted naturally and naturally) by ſuch a mutual Complaiſance and Intercourſe of Civilities. Theſe Forms of Converſation by degrees multiplied and grew troubleſome; the Modiſh World found too great a Reſtraint in them, and have therefore thrown moſt of them aſide. Converſation, like the *Romiſh* Religion, was ſo encumbered with Show and Ceremony, that it ſtood in need of a Reformation to retrench ſuperfluities, and reſtore it to its natural good Senſe and Beauty. At preſent therefore an unconcerned Carriage, and a certain Openneſs of Behaviour are the height of Good Breeding. The Faſhionable World is grown free and eaſie; our Manners, ſit more looſe upon us: Nothing is ſo much in Faſhion as an agreeable Negligence. In a word, Good Breeding ſhows it ſelf moſt, where to an ordinary Eye it appears the leaſt.

If after this we look on the People of Mode in the Country, we find in them the Manners of the laſt Age. They have no ſooner fetched themſelves up to the faſhion of the Polite World, but the Town has dropped them, and are nearer to the firſt State of Nature than to thoſe Refinements which formerly reigned in the Court, and ſtill prevail in the Country. One may now know a Man that never converſed in the World by his Exceſs of Good Breeding. A Polite Country Squire ſhall make you as many Bows in half an Hour, as would ſerve a Courtier for a Week. There is infinitely more to do about Place and Precedency in a Meeting of Juſtices Wives, than in an Aſſembly of Dutcheſſes.

This Rural Politeneſs is very troubleſome to a Man of my Temper, who generally take the Chair that is next me, and walk firſt or laſt, in the Front or in the Rear, as Chance directs. I have ſeen my Friend Sir ROGER's Dinner almoſt cold before the Company could adjuſt the Ceremonial, and be prevailed upon to ſit down; and have heartily pitied my old Friend, when I have ſeen him forced to pick and cull his Gueſts, as they ſat at the ſeveral Parts of his Table, that he might drink their Healths according to their reſpective Ranks and Qualities. Honeſt *Will. Wimble*, who I ſhould have thought had been altogether uninfected with Ceremony, gives me abundance of Trouble in this Particular; though he has been fiſhing all the Morning, he will not help himſelf at Dinner 'till I am ſerved. When we are going out of the Hall he runs behind me, and laſt Night, as we were walking in the Fields, ſtopped ſhort at a Stile till I came up to it, and upon my making Signs to him

to

ſo got over, told me, with a ſerious Smile, that ſure I believed they had no Manners in the Country.

There has happened another Revolution in the Point of Good Breeding, that relates to the Converſation among Men of Mode, which I cannot but look upon as very extraordinary. It was certainly one of the firſt Diſtinctions of a well-bred Man to expreſs every thing that had the moſt remote Appearance of being obſcene in modeſt Terms and diſtant Phraſes; whilſt the Clown, who had no ſuch Delicacy of Conception and Expreſſion, cloathed his *Ideas* in thoſe plain homely Terms that are the moſt obvious and natural. This kind of Good Manners was perhaps carried to an Exceſs, ſo as to make Converſation too ſtiff, formal and preciſe; for which Reaſon (as Hypocriſy in one Age is generally ſucceeded by Atheiſm in another) Converſation is in a great meaſure relapſed into the firſt Extream; So that at preſent ſeveral of our Men of the Town, and particularly thoſe who have been poliſhed in *France*, make uſe of the moſt coarſe uncivilized Words in our Language, and utter themſelves often in ſuch a manner as a Clown would bluſh to hear.

This infamous Piece of Good Breeding, which reigns among the Coxcombs of the Town, has not yet made its way into the Country; and as it is impoſſible for ſuch an irrational way of Converſation to laſt long among a People that make any Profeſſion of Religion, or Show of Modeſty, if the Country Gentlemen get into it they will certainly be left in the Lurch; their Good Breeding will come too late to them, and they will be thought a parcel of lewd Clowns, while they fancy themſelves talking together like Men of Wit and Pleaſure.

As the two Points of Good Breeding, which I have hitherto inſiſted upon, regard Behaviour and Converſation, there is a third which turns upon Dreſs. In this too the Country are very much behind hand. The Rural Beaus are not yet got out of the Faſhion that took place at the time of the Revolution, but ride about the Country in red Coats and laced Hats, while the Women in many Parts are ſtill trying to outvie one another in the Height of their Head-Dreſſes.

But a Friend of mine, who is now upon the Weſtern Circuit, having promiſed to give me an Account of the ſeveral Modes and Faſhions that prevail in the different Parts of the Nation through which he paſſes, I ſhall defer the enlarging upon this laſt Topick till I have received a Letter from him, which I expect every Poſt.

Compleat Seats of this Paper, for the Month of June, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauſort-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane; where alſo may be had thoſe for the Months of March, April and May.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality,

By her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, this preſent Tueſday, being the 17th Day of July, will be preſented A Play call'd, Sophoniſba, or Hannibal's Overthrow. The Part of Maſſiſſa to be perform'd by Mr. Booth; and all the other Parts to the beſt Advantage.

This Play is Sold by Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over againſt Catherine Street in the Strand.

Gown Ware-Houſe, removed from Baker's Coffee-Houſe, to Freeman's-Yard, in Cornhill, near the Royal-Exchange. Gowns for Men and Women, from 7 l. 10 s. to 13 s. each, the Silk Stuffs and Callicoes, they are made of, are bought at Publick Sales of Perſons that fail'd. Where Ladies may be Furniſh'd with all ſorts of Quilted Petticoats, and Canvas Hoop'd, and the neweſt Mated Petticoats at 5 s. a piece. The Prices being ſet on each Gown, for Encouragement, Merchants that buy four Gowns, ſhall have 5 per Cent. Diſcompt. N. B. This was the Ware-Houſe of Mr. Daniel Defoe.

Juſt Publiſh'd very neat and Correct Editions of the following Books, viz.

The Works of Mr. Francis Beaumont and Mr. John Fletcher, in 7 Vols. 8vo. adorn'd with Cuts. Plutarch's Lives in 5 Vols. tranſlated by ſeveral Hands. Seneca's Morals tranſlated by Sir Roger l'Eſtrange. The Satyrs of Decimus junius Juvenalis, &c. tranſlated into Engliſh Verſe by Mr. Dryden and ſeveral other eminent Hands. The Works of Mr. Congreve in 3 Vols. containing all his Plays and Poems. Poems on ſeveral Occaſions written by Mr. Prior. Paradiſe loſt, a Poem, in 12 Books, by Mr. John Milton. The Chriſtian Hero, written by Mr. Steele. N. B. The three laſt are printed with a neat Elziver Letter in ſmall Pocket Volumes: and printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's head over-againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

An Account of the preſent State and Government of the Empire of Germany: In a Letter to Thomas Foley of Whitley in the County of Worceſter, Eſq; by M. Le Vaſſor. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

Le Diable Boiteux, or the Devil upon two Sticks, tranſlated from the laſt Edition at Paris, with ſeveral Additions. The Second Edition Corrected. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catharine-ſtreet in the Strand.

The Retir'd Gardner, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gardner; Containing the Method of Ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin Garden, together with the Manner of Planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Shrubs and Under-Shrubs, neceſſary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. To which is explain'd, the Art of Making and Diſpoſing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Colonnades, and other Pieces and Compartments uſually found in the moſt Beautiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Tranſlation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To which is added, a Deſcription and Plan of Count Tallard's Garden at Nottingham. The whole Reviſ'd, with ſeveral Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our Engliſh Climate. By George London, and Henry Wiſe. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over againſt Catherine-Street in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in: as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.